

QUICKER, MORE EFFICIENT 911 CALL HANDLING COMES TO MORGAN HILL

THE POLICE Department recently installed a new state-of-the-art telephone system in our 911 Communications Center. The most exciting news about this new system is that it allows the Morgan Hill Police Department to process 911 wireless phone calls directly. Paid for with state funds, the phone system replaces an outdated system that had been in use for many years. Calls are now answered by a single touch via a touch screen monitor and then quickly routed to responding officers, other agencies, and other internal extensions within the police department. The system also makes up to 10,000 phone numbers available for speed dial. These features allow the communications center to operate in a much more efficient manner.

Prior to this installation, when a cell phone caller dialed 911, the call went directly to the California Highway Patrol's communications center in either Vallejo or Salinas. The CHP dispatchers questioned the caller to determine what was being reported and the caller's location. The call would then be transferred to the responsible police agency when necessary. Due to the volume of calls received by the highway patrol at any one time, there was sometimes a delay in processing these calls. The new technology allows each individual police agency to accept 911 wireless calls directly from cell phone users in their area. The caller can then expect help to reach them much more quickly. Just as enhanced 911 captures a caller's name, address and phone number when a call is made from a "landline," or home phone, this new technology captures vital location information when you dial 911 from your wireless phone. The location you are calling from is relayed by your cell phone provider in a latitude and longitude coordinate format. This information is then trans-

THE CITY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE
THAT THE GOVERNMENT FINANCE OFFICER'S
ASSOCIATION HAS GIVEN
THE CITY'S 2003-2004 BUDGET
A DISTINGUISHED BUDGET
PRESENTATION AWARD.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY'S FINANCE
DEPARTMENT STAFF FOR THEIR HARD
WORK AND RECOGNIZED SUCCESS.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- SPECIAL SECTION: ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS
 - WHEN DO YOU NEED A BUSINESS LICENSE?
 - KINDERGARDEN REGISTRATION
 - DONOR WALKWAY UPDATE
 - WIN UP TO \$250 - ENTER ART & SCIENCE FAIR
 - COMMUNITY CALENDAR & CONTACTS
 - AND MUCH MORE!
-

Youth+You: *Make The Connection*

**SOCIAL COMPETENCIES PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING:
YOUTH KNOW HOW TO PLAN AHEAD AND MAKE CHOICES.**

TAKE CONTROL AND HAVE FUN! WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE A CERTAIN
ACTIVITY IN MORGAN HILL – JUST FOR YOUNG CITIZENS? CALL 782-
0008 X 523 AND SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH THE RECREATION AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES DIVISION STAFF.

TEEN DANCES • ART CLASSES • WHAT CAN YOU THINK OF?

WHEN DO YOU NEED A BUSINESS LICENSE?

CITIES IN California have had the authority to levy business license taxes for many years. The City of Morgan Hill established its first business license tax ordinance in the 1930's. The taxes collected under this ordinance help pay the costs of general services such as public safety, parks and recreation and represent about 1.2% of the City's general fund revenues. Recent improvements in technology and the ability to cross reference with other state agencies will make enforcement of the regulations much easier, thereby ensuring that all businesses conducting business within the City comply with the City's ordinance.

The City of Morgan Hill's business license ordinance is administered by the Finance Department. Assistance with the application process, questions regarding fees or business types, and bilingual assistance is available Monday through Friday, 8:00AM to 5:00PM.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Do I need a business license?

All persons or companies conducting business within the city limits of Morgan Hill are required to obtain a business license. Conducting business is defined as conducting, managing or carrying on a profession, business, trade or occupation for profit or livelihood.

Where do I get an application?

You can obtain an application in person from the City's Finance Department, by calling 779-7237, or by downloading the form from the City's website at www.morgan-hill.ca.gov.

When do I have to file the application?

Applications must be submitted and fees paid prior to conducting business within city limits.

How long is my license valid?

Business license are issued on a fiscal year basis and are valid from July to June. All business licenses expire on June 30 and must be renewed annually.

What are the fees for a business license?


The fees vary by business category. The most common categories are home based, fixed place of business, professional, and no fixed place of business. A complete list of fees is available from the Finance Department or the City's website. In addition to license fees, there are onetime fees for application review and zoning compliance.

I operate a nonprofit organization. Do I need a business license?

Yes, however the business license tax is waived for nonprofits registered with the Secretary of State. Other onetime fees apply.

Does a business license give me the right to conduct business?

Your business license is not a permit to operate and does not authorize you to operate a business that is otherwise prohibited by law or ordinance.


For additional information or assistance with your business license needs, please contact the Finance Department at 779-723. 

BIG BUILDING YEAR

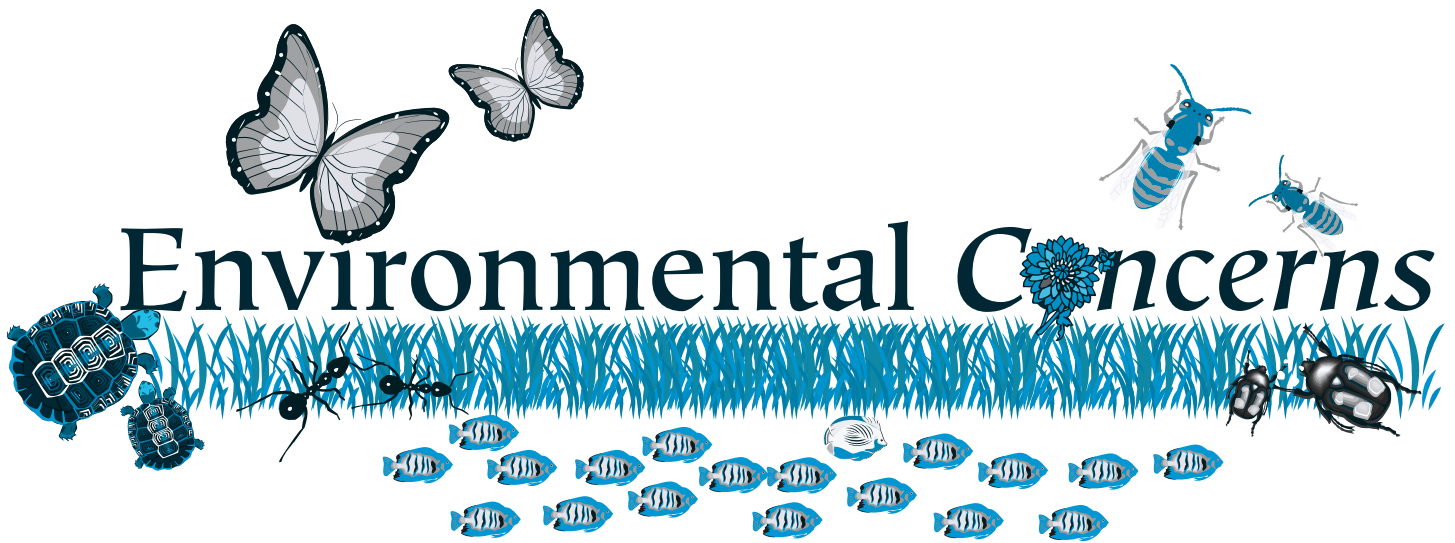
2003 WAS one of the busiest years for the City's Building Division. With construction valuations totaling nearly \$128 million, it would seem that there really isn't a lull in the economy at all when it comes to construction.

Topping the list for individual item valuations were 314 permits issued for single family dwellings with a valuation of over \$58 million, tenant improvements over \$12 million, new commercial/industrial buildings with a valuation of over \$11 million, multi-family dwellings with a valuation of over \$7 million, and detached secondary dwellings with a valuation of over \$7 million - just to name a few.

The number of single family dwelling, multi-family dwelling and detached secondary dwelling permits issued for this year were partially derived from those projects approved through the Measure P process. These have been allocated for construction from the year 1999 to present. The remaining permits for these types of construction were applied for by individual residents. Some of the larger projects that were issued permits this year were Capriano, Central Park, Coyote Ranch, Monte Villa, Morgan Lane, Morgan Meadows, Murphy Ranch, Quail Creek and Quail Meadows.

Most of these are new subdivisions and, typically, ten percent of all these subdivisions are Below Market Rate homes for new homeowners. Murphy Ranch, however, is a 62 unit low income apartment complex situated at Dunne and Butterfield that provides affordable housing for working residents in our area. Various existing and new businesses, such as Johnson Lumber and the new Home Depot, have chosen to apply for tenant improvements rather than build new buildings - making use of existing commercial space. Other new businesses, like the new Harley Davidson "House of Thunder" show room, are starting from scratch. These are just a few commercial projects which have been issued permits this year that will improve our local economy and provide conveniences for residents. 

Article By Mary Anne Kendall, 779-7241 or MAKendall@morgan-hill.ca.gov



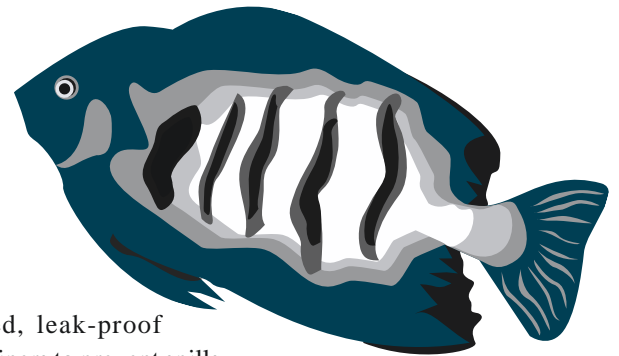
Environmental Concerns

HOUSEHOLD WASTE CAN BE A HAZARD

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES are common in many household products. They can be found throughout the home, garage, garden, and hobby shop as ingredients in such products as cleaners, paints, and pesticides. Once these products are no longer needed, the unused portion is considered household hazardous waste (HHW). Improper disposal of HHW increases harmful contaminants in local landfills, causes environmental degradation, pollutes the bay, endangers refuse workers, and increases risks to public health and safety. You can protect your family, pets, and the environment by disposing of your HHW properly.

The Santa Clara Countywide Household Hazardous Waste Program provides Morgan Hill residents with a FREE, convenient solution to the problem of HHW disposal. Morgan Hill residents can safely dispose of hazardous materials such as aerosols, automotive fluids, car & household batteries, fertilizers, fluorescent lights, flammable fluids, garden chemicals, helium, household cleaners, latex & oil-based paint and stains, pesticides, pool chemicals, propane tanks, sharps/hypodermic needles, used motor oil & filters and other hazardous materials the first weekend of each month at the new County facility in San Martin. The following wastes are not accepted: radioactives, ammunition and explosives, business generated waste, materials in containers larger than five gallons, and compressed gas cylinders larger than five gallons.

Residents must call 299-7300 to preregister for material drop-off and to get directions to the facility. The HHW program is funded by the City of Morgan Hill and the County of Santa Clara and there is no charge for residents to use this service. Participants must follow the legal requirements for transporting hazardous waste by not carrying more than five gallons or 50 pounds of hazardous products to the HHW collection events. Use caution when handling hazardous chemicals and place in



closed, leak-proof containers to prevent spills and possible mixing of chemicals. Place containers in the trunk, away from passenger areas. Waste containers are discarded and not returned.

Leftover paints, household cleaners and other products are not hazardous wastes if they can be safely reused. The HHW collection facilities offer a free "Reuse Program" for residents interested in obtaining reuseable products. The program is open to the public on days of the HHW drop-off events. Residents are encouraged to use safer alternatives and purchase smaller quantities of hazardous products. Remember the three "R's":

REDUCE: Buy nontoxic alternatives if available.
Buy only what you need. Use the products completely. Store products to prevent spoilage.

REUSE: Give products to someone who can use them. Visit the County's Reuse Program.

RECYCLE: Bring wastes to the HHW drop-off events. For more information, visit www.hhw.org or call 299-7300.



Article by Andi Borowski, 779-7247 or andib@morgan-hill.ca.gov

A simple and convenient way to help the environment - buy recycled paper.



IT'S NO accident that the symbol for recycling is a circle of arrows. Reusing and recycling materials are only part of the effort needed to reduce the strain on environmental resources. Consumers must also purchase goods created from recycled materials in order to make the circle complete.

Bay Area cities and counties are sponsoring a Buy Recycled Paper Campaign this March to ask Bay Area workers and residents to make a special effort to use recycled paper at work and at home.

You can start by buying toilet paper and paper towels made from recycled paper - not newly cut trees. Most stores carry at least one brand that proudly announces it includes recycled content.

While at work or buying paper for your home printer, be sure to request paper that has at least 30 percent "post-consumer" recycled content - meaning that at least 30 percent of the paper is made from fibers that were salvaged from a previous paper product. It is important that you look for and request recycled paper, because most paper on the shelves is not recycled. For a list of stores that sell recycled paper, contact your local recycling website or hotline.

"Consumers believe they no longer have to ask for recycled, but more than 90 percent of the printing and writing paper made in this country is still made from trees," said Susan Kinsella, Executive Director of Conservatree (www.conservatree.com), a Bay Area nonprofit organization that educates paper buyers on environmental paper purchasing. "Every ton of recycled paper saves 12 trees (newspaper) to 24 trees (office papers) and a significant amount of energy and water that otherwise would be required to make paper from newly cut trees. Recycled paper also reduces air pollutants, a byproduct of paper production."

"When recycled paper first became available on the market more than twenty years ago, concerns about cost and quality limited its appeal to consumers. Now recycled papers are high quality, meeting the same requirements as non-recycled papers. In addition, price differences have become so small that many recycled papers are priced about the same - or less - than paper without post-consumer recycled content. Best of all, they can be used successfully at home and at work in a wide variety of uses from finicky copiers to high-end graphics printing," said Kinsella.

To learn more about using recycled paper, visit the Bay Area Buy Recycled Paper Campaign website at www.BayAreaRecycling.org, 

MORGAN HILL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS CAN WIN BIG AT EARTH DAY ART & SCIENCE FAIR

RECYCLING IS good for the bottle, good for the can, and great for the wallet! This April, beverage container recycling projects can net \$500 for one Morgan Hill classroom, and over \$1200 for Morgan Hill students.

The City of Morgan Hill announced that it will hold its first Earth Day Art & Science Fair at the Community and Cultural Center on April 22, 2004. Funded by the California Department of Conservation, the fair is designed to educate and motivate our community to recycle and reuse drink containers, like water bottles and soda cans.

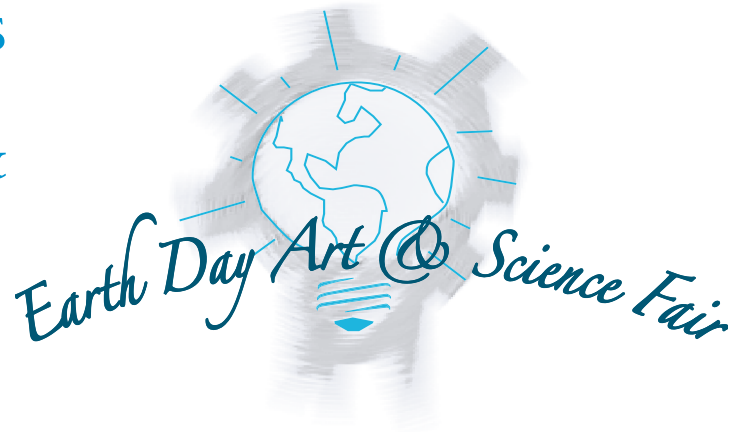
All Morgan Hill students are invited to submit projects that promote recycling, reduction or reuse of drink containers. Entries will be judged in three categories: Grades K - 3, grades 4 - 8 and grades 9 - 12. Students can work in teams or individually, as long as they are in the same age category.

According to the California Department of Conservation, Californians bought more than 18.2 billion drinks in aluminum, glass, plastic and bi-metal containers last year. More than 10.6 billion of those containers were recycled, saving natural resources, conserving energy and extending the life of our landfills. The City of Morgan Hill wants to recycle its share of the other 7.6 billion containers, and the Earth Day Art & Science Fair is part of that effort.

Entry forms were recently sent to all Morgan Hill Schools. Students who did not receive the entry form can check with their teacher or front school office. Forms can also be downloaded from the City of Morgan Hill Web site at www.morgan-hill.ca.gov/html/new/upcoming.asp (select 2004 Earth Day Art and Science Fair).

"Intent To Enter" forms are being accepted now through April 1, 2004, and need to be mailed, attention Katherine Filice to 65 Fifth Street #100, Gilroy, CA 95020 or delivered to City Hall at 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037. "Intent to Enter" forms received by March 1st will be entered into a special early-bird prize drawing.

Project entries must be dropped off at the Community and Cultural Center, 17000 Monterey Street, on April 21. Judging will be at 1:00 P.M., with a public reception from




3:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M. on Earth Day, April 22. Entries must be picked up on April 23 from the Community Center.

Morgan Hill's Earth Day Art & Science Fair will promote the recycling and reuse of soda cans, plastic bottles - like water and juice bottles - and other types of drink containers. The best project submitted as part of a classroom assignment will win \$500 for the teacher, to be spent on classroom supplies or an event of the teacher's choosing. The student whose entry is judged Best of Show will win \$250.

Entries will be judged in three categories: Grades K - 3, grades 4 - 8 and grades 9 - 12. Prizes will be awarded in each category with a first place award of \$100, second place receives \$50 and third place wins \$25.

In addition, several special awards will be presented, including Best Art Project \$100, Best Idea \$100, and Best Presentation wins \$25. Students can enter any project that promotes the recycling, reduction or reuse of beverage containers. They can find project ideas on the City of Morgan Hill Web site, at www.morgan-hill.ca.gov/html/new/upcoming.asp (select 2004 Earth Day and Science Fair). For example:

- Draw a poster that shows or encourages recycling of soda cans, water bottles or other drink containers.
- Find a great cause to support. Hold a fundraiser and collect drink containers. Turn the containers into the recycler and collect the money from them. Take pictures; explain how you promoted the fundraiser and how you used the money to help your cause. Contact the newspaper and ask them to write about your fundraiser. Use a copy of the story in your display.
- Decorate a recycling collection container in a way that gets attention. Perform a scientific study to see whether your decorated container or a regular (plain) recycling container collected more drink bottles.

For more information, contact project coordinator, Katherine Filice at 842-2275. 

What's So Special About May 15th?

IT'S CITY Beautification Day.
Want to get involved?
Call 779-7247.



Phone Book Recycling

RECYCLE THAT Phone Book. Did you know that phone books are mixed paper? When you get a new one, please recycle your old one with your mixed paper recycling. Thanks for making a difference.



Recycle Your Cell Phone

DID YOU know that there are several easy and convenient places to recycle your used cell phone in Morgan Hill? That's right, AT&T Wireless at Cochrane Plaza, Wireless World at Vineyard Town Center, and Radio Shack at Tennant Station all will accept your used phone for recycling.



Report Abandoned Shopping Carts

IN ORDER to improve the appearance of the community and improve public safety, residents are urged to contact the City to report abandoned shopping carts.

While residents are always welcome to call 776-7333 to report carts, the City has also set up an e-mail hotline to accept the reports. Residents can now e-mail carts@morgan-hill.ca.gov to report abandoned carts.



Do Your Part on Street Sweeping Day


REMEMBER THE street sweeper comes on the day after your recycling and yard trimmings are collected. Please move your vehicles.




WALK THIS WAY

AS THE completion of the Morgan Hill Aquatics Center nears, you and your family have the opportunity to purchase a laser engraved brick to be placed in the "Donor Walkway."


Morgan Hill Aquatic Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit organization, is sponsoring this brick program to support the City's efforts in operating the facility once it is built. You can show your support for the aquatics facilities and programs by purchasing bricks to commemorate your family name, corporation, service group, organization, school, etc. You may even want to purchase a brick to honor or memorialize a friend, mentor or special person. Bricks are \$125 for a 4" x 8" brick with 3 lines of text or \$250 for a 8" x 8" brick with 3 lines of text.

Forms are available at the Community and Cultural Center, City Hall, El Toro Brewery, or by calling Foundation members John Rick at 779-3313 or Martine Kapetanac at 779-7432. 

SUBCOMMITTEE FORMING TO REVIEW SPORTS COMPLEX CONCEPTUAL PLANS

THE CITY is moving forward on designing the new Morgan Hill Outdoor Sports Complex. The Complex will be located on Condit Avenue on the 36 acres owned by the City which is currently being used as the soccer complex. This parcel is immediately to the north of the Aquatics Complex which is scheduled to open in June. The Parks and Recreation Commission will begin working with a subcommittee representing potential user groups of the Sports Complex to review the draft conceptual design and phasing plan. The draft plan currently calls for softball, baseball, and soccer fields with volleyball courts, batting cages, playground area and concessions. Interested community members may contact Recreation and Community Services Manager Julie Spier at 779-7271 for more information. 


"911", FROM PAGE 1

lated into a specific location on an automated mapping program. Your cell phone number is also displayed allowing the dispatcher to call you back if the connection is lost. CHP retains jurisdiction over cellular transmitter sites that are located near freeways, or have transmitters aimed at freeways. In these cases, you will still reach CHP when you dial 911 on your cell phone, and will be transferred if necessary to the responsible, local 911 centers. Agencies who have been handling the wireless 911 calls for the past several months have seen an increase volume in calls upwards of 30%. 

Article by Paula Rodriguez, Lead Dispatcher, 776-7300

BUDGET CUTS OF \$800,000


THE CITY government is currently developing its budget for the 2004-2005 fiscal year. Budget development will be difficult this year as the City has identified the need to reduce its General Fund budget by approximately \$800,000. Additional cuts and new revenues will also be needed in future years. City staff are now generating proposals for the City Council's consideration during the budget process that will identify "less critical" services that the City currently provides, but can no longer afford to do so. Over the past decade, Morgan Hill has enjoyed a strong financial condition while providing a "no-frills" modest level of basic service. During this time, the City was able to achieve the following three major accomplishments:

1) Police Department staffing was restored to the levels last achieved in 1992 when the City faced it's last critical budget challenge; 2) Recreation programming, which was completely eliminated in the early 90's, was reinstituted; 3) a significant Reserve Fund was established in the General Fund to allow the City to retain services during future economic downturns. The General Fund reserve as of June 30, 2003, was \$10.7 million. Like the rest of the Silicon Valley, however, the City's financial condition has declined over the past several years. While revenues have steadily dropped, expenditures, that are largely outside of the City's control, have escalated significantly. Over the past two years, General Fund reserves have been used to balance the budget and service cuts have been avoided. In the current year alone, it may be necessary to use \$900,000 of reserves – even after aggressive efforts to reduce costs through a hiring freeze and delayed purchases. Unless there are long-term structural changes to bring the budget into balance, the current level of spending on basic city services is not sustainable. Based on currently foreseeable trends over the next five years, General Fund reserves will not simply fall below reasonable target levels, they will be depleted...if the City does not act to reduce expenditures. Therefore, City staff are now developing proposals to bring about this structural change for the City Council to consider. The initial budget presentation to the Council is scheduled for May with official adoption of the budget scheduled to occur in June. 

*Article By J. Edward Tewes, City Manager, 779-7271,
etewes@morgan-hill.ca.gov*

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION for the Morgan Hill Unified School District for the 2004-05 school year begins March 15 at 8:00 a.m. Registration packets may be picked up at the District Enrollment Center, 15600 Concord Circle, or at any elementary school, beginning March 1. Completed applications must be returned to the District Enrollment Center for processing.

Student registrations will be processed when all requirements are met. Enrollment at your school of residence is on a first come, first served basis. Students currently enrolled in the district do not have to reenroll. For more information, including registration packets, visit www.mhu.k12.ca.us/registration.htm or call the District at 201-6030. 

MORGAN HILL COMMUNITY GUIDE

CHANNEL 17 PROGRAMMING

CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS

REGULAR SESSION: 3/03 7PM LIVE
3/04 NOON REPLAY
3/06 8PM REPLAY
3/07 NOON REPLAY

REGULAR SESSION: 3/17 7PM LIVE
3/18 NOON REPLAY
3/20 8PM REPLAY
3/21 NOON REPLAY

REGULAR SESSION: 3/24 7PM LIVE
3/25 NOON REPLAY
3/27 8PM REPLAY
3/28 NOON REPLAY

PLANNING COMMISSION MEETINGS

REGULAR SESSION: 3/09 7PM LIVE
3/10 NOON REPLAY
3/13 NOON REPLAY
3/14 8PM REPLAY

REGULAR SESSION: 3/23 7PM LIVE
3/24 NOON REPLAY
3/27 NOON REPLAY
3/28 8PM REPLAY

FIRE SAFETY INSIDE & OUT 9:00AM & 4:30PM DAILY
7PM MONDAY & FRIDAY

SPARKY'S FIRE SAFETY FOR KIDS 10:30AM & 6:00PM DAILY
8:30PM FRIDAY

FUGITIVE WATCH 11:30AM & 7:00PM DAILY
THE BAY AREA'S MOST WANTED 9:30PM FRIDAY

COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

EARLY BIRD ENTRIES DUE • MARCH 1ST

If you are planning to enter the Morgan Hill Art & Science Fair, why not enter the early bird drawing for a special prize? The deadline for Intent-to-Enter forms is April 1, 2004, but if your form is postmarked by March 1st, you could win a *very* special surprise. For more information, call 842-2275.

ELECTION DAY • MARCH 4TH

There are several very important local issues on the ballot. Please take ten-minutes and vote. Your community will be better for your effort.

COMPOSTING WORKSHOP • MARCH 10TH

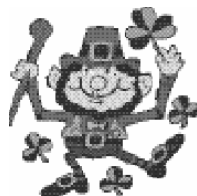
Attendees of Morgan Hill Home Composting workshops discover the benefits of gardening using their own compost. The next class is scheduled for Wednesday, March 10, from 7pm-9pm at the YMCA. To register for this free workshop, call the Home Composting Education Program at 918-4640.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY • MARCH 17

City offices open. Regular garbage and recycling service.

CESAR CHAVEZ'S DAY • MARCH 31ST

City offices closed. Regular garbage and recycling service.



CITY ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mayor **Dennis Kennedy** 779-7259
Mayor Pro Tempore **Greg Sellers** 778-2370
Councilmember **Larry Carr** 779-9622
Councilmember **Hedy L. Chang** 778-0511
Councilmember **Steve Tate** 779-6992
City Clerk **Irma Torrez** 779-7259
City Treasurer **Michael Roorda** 778-3653

CITY EXECUTIVE STAFF

City Manager **J. Edward Tewes**
City Attorney **Helene L. Leichter**
Assistant To The City Manager **Melissa Stevenson Dile**
Assistant To The City Manager **Anthony Eulo**
Business Assistance/Housing Services Director **Garrett Toy**
Community Development Director **David Bischoff**
Council Services and Records Manager **Irma Torrez**
Finance Director **Jack Dilles**
Human Resources Director **Mary Kaye Fisher**
Interim Police Chief **Bruce Cumming**
Public Works Director **Jim Ashcraft**
Recreation and Community Services Manager **Julie Spier**

CONTACTING YOUR CITY

Hours: Monday - Friday, 8AM to 5PM

Address: 17555 Peak Avenue, Morgan Hill, CA 95037

Animal Control 776-7300
Building Inspection 779-7241
Business Assist. & Housing Services 776-7373
City Clerk 779-7259
City Manager 779-7271
Community & Cultural Center 782-0008
Emergency Services/Disaster Preparedness 776-7310
Environmental Programs 779-7247
Finance 779-7237
Fire Department (County Fire) 378-4010
Job Hotline 779-7276
Planning: Land Use / Zoning 779-7247
Police Administration 776-7315
Public Works 776-7337
Recreation & Community Services 782-0008
Water 779-7221
Volunteer Programs 779-7278
City Hall Fax Number 779-3117

City Website: <http://www.morgan-hill.ca.gov>

CONTACT THE EDITOR

Questions or comments about City Visions are welcome.

Contact Editor Anthony Eulo at 779-7247 or environ@ch.morgan-hill.ca.gov. City Visions is published monthly by the City of Morgan Hill.

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